

## QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE?

- How can I determine if my house or apartment was formerly used to manufacture illegal drugs?
- What are some of the physical signs to look for?
- What are some of the adverse health effects caused by drug lab contamination?

### TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Clandestine Drug Lab Team  
3629 South D Street, MS:306  
Tacoma, WA 98413-6813  
<http://www.tpchd.org/>

Phone:  
(253) 798-4782 Or (253) 798-6566

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

*Washington State Department of Health*  
1-888-586-9427  
<http://www.doh.wa.gov/>

*NW HIDTA*  
(Northwest High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area)  
1-888-609-6384  
<http://whitehousedrugpolicy.org/hidta/>

*Pierce County Sheriffs Department*  
(253) 798-7537  
<http://www.co.pierce.wa.us/pc/abtus/ourorg/sheriff/default.htm>



TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY  
HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM**  
CLEAN WATER. HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT. FOR LIFE.

## WAS MY HOUSE USED AS A METH LAB?

HOW DO I KNOW IF MY  
HOUSE WAS USED TO  
MAKE “METH”?



Check the Title of  
the house for any  
Health Orders.

## SIGNS TO LOOK FOR

### LEARN MORE ABOUT PAST USES OF YOUR HOUSE:

First and foremost talk to your neighbors. Neighbors can be your best resource about the history of your house and the people that have lived there in the past. Questions to ask:

- Have they noticed any strange behavior from prior occupants or from visitors?
- Have they ever noticed chemical smells emanating from the property?
- Have they noticed excessive traffic to and from the house during all hours of the day and night?
- Has there been excessive amounts of trash around the property?
- Were windows ever blacked out or covered?

Additionally call your local Police Department and ask if they know anything.



Glassware and tubing found at a meth lab.

### PHYSICAL SIGNS INSIDE YOUR HOME:

- Staining or etching marks on sinks, toilets, bathtubs or the stove.
- Brown and red staining on the walls and other surfaces that almost seem to bleed color when you attempt to wash them.
- Added ventilation systems located over work benches, in attics or in basements

### PHYSICAL SIGNS INSIDE & OUTSIDE YOUR HOME:

- Chemicals such as toluene, xylene, camp fuel, alcohol, drain cleaners, and/or iodine.
- Cold tablet packaging.
- Broken batteries, matchbook covers, road flairs and rock salt.
- Compressed gas cylinders like propane tanks that have been modified and/or have a bluish staining on the valves.
- Plastic or glass containers modified with tubes and/or fittings coming out of them.

Burn pile at a clandestine drug lab



### PHYSICAL SIGNS OUTSIDE YOUR HOME:

- Burn piles.
- Dead or dying vegetation.
- Buried trash piles

## HEALTH RISKS

### SHORT TERM:

You may experience shortness of breath, a cough, chest pains, dizziness, lack of coordination, skin lesions, and or burns.

### LONG TERM:

May cause cancer, brain, liver and kidney damage, birth defects and or reproductive problems.

## WHAT TO DO?

If after inspecting your property and talking with your neighbors you feel there is a good chance your home may have been used for a clandestine drug lab, call the Health Department at 253-798-4782 or 253-798-6656 to discuss testing and or cleaning options available to you.